

Message Text

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11

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /020 W

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P R 251400Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8701

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 2156

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OTRA, CZ

SUBJECT: VISIT OF COMMERCE DAS DOWNEY

REF: STATE 200242

1. WHILE EMBASSY GREATLY PLEASED OVER PROSPECTS DOWNEY VISIT TO PRAGUE SEPTEMBER 3-4, WE FEEL THAT IN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE OF CONSTRAINED TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA IT WOULD BE MISTAKE NOT TO ALLOW MORE TIME HERE FOR MEETINGS AT LEAST WITH HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND, PERHAPS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. GIVEN CURRENT PROBLEMS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS STEMMING IN PART FROM TRADE ACT OF 1974, AND ESPECIALLY FROM LONG-GRASS AMENDMENT (NOW SECTION 408) THERETO, WE ARE MORE THAN LIGHTLY CONCERNED THAT CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT WOULD SEE SHORT OVERNIGHT STAY WHICH DID NOT ALLOW FOR OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS OF ANY KIND AS INSULT AND WOULD REACT NEGATIVELY TO IT.

2. INCIDENTALLY, MFT OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF LAST WEEK THAT CZECHOSLOVAK COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR IN NEW YORK, NOVACEK, HAD MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF DOWNEY VISIT AT TIME OF BRNO FAIR IN RECENT REPORT TO MINISTRY. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL, MFT LOOKED FORWARD TO SUCH A VISIT AND IT IS PARTLY BECAUSE OF THIS THAT WE DO NOT RECOMMEND DOWNEY'S PASSING THROUGH PRAGUE WITHOUT MAKING OFFICIAL CONTACT. ALTHOUGH POSSIBLE, MEETINGS EARLY ON MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 4 WOULD BE AWKWARD AND HURRIED, GIVEN 1035 A.M. DEPARTURE FOR BUDAPEST.

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3. WE WONDER, IN VIEW OF ABOVE, WHETHER DOWNEY MIGHT NOT AGREE
TO TRAVEL BY AIR FROM BERLIN TO PRAGUE EARLIER IN DAY ON
SEPTEMBER 3 THUS PROVIDING TIME THAT AFTERNOON FOR POSSIBLE
CALLS ON APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS HERE. WE NOTE THAT CSE
FLIGHT OK-725 DEPARTS SCHOENFELD AT 11:40 A.M.
DAILY ARRIVING PRAGUE AT 12:25 P.M.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

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